



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kazuhiro HATTORI et al.

Group Art Unit: 1762

Application No.: 10/791,712

Examiner: A. BASHORE

Filed: March 4, 2004

Docket No.: 118883

For: PRODUCTION METHOD AND PRODUCTION APPARATUS FOR MAGNETIC  
RECORDING MEDIUM

**SUPPLEMENTAL REMARKS**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Claims 1 and 3-18 remain pending. Further to Applicants' April 6, 2006 Amendment, please consider the following additional remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2, 4, 7, and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Japanese Patent Publication JP A 09-097419 to Ichihara et al (hereinafter "Ichihara") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0167770 A1 to Fukuzawa et al. (hereinafter "Fukuzawa"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Neither Ichihara nor Fukuzawa disclose, teach, or suggest "a barrier film formation step for forming a barrier film on said partitioned recording elements...provided between said recording layer processing step and said non-magnetic body filling step," as recited in claim 11. The Office Action appears to rely on paragraph [0043] of Ichihara as allegedly disclosing this feature. However, that portion of Ichihara simply discloses that the disk may be equipped with a protective layer. Nowhere does Ichihara disclose that a barrier film may be formed